Modernization of ESI hospitals

*359. SHRI R.K. ANAND:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have plans to modernize ESI hospitals throughout the country;

(b) if so, the budget provision earmarked for this purpose for the year 2003-04; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c)The ESI Corporation has plans to modernize its hospitals throughout the country. The ESI Corporation has provided Rs. 54.93 crores in the Budget for the year 2003-04 for purchase of modern equipment to upgrade the ESI Hospitals. In addition one existing ESI Hospital in each State is being converted into a Model Hospital with all modern facilities for which Rs. 156.07 crores have been budgetted during 2003-04.

On Demand telephone connections

†*360. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to provide telephones on demand in the country, particularly in rural areas;

(b) whether Government have examined the feasibility of providing technologies having low running cost, minimum maintenance, cheap and reliable in rural and remote areas; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) New Telecom Policy, 1999 already envisages making available telephones on demand in the country including rural areas. This is to be implemented with the help of all the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

service providers. After the formation of BSNL in October, 2000, the service providing functions of Government in rural areas are being performed by BSNL.

(b) A detailed study was conducted by the Government in 1999 to choose the appropriate technology for rural telecom service and Village Public Telephones (VPTs). As a result of this study, WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) was chosen as a technology having comparatively low running cost, easy maintenance, reliable service etc. This technology is being increasingly used by BSNL for providing lines in rural areas. All service providers are free to choose any technology for deployment in rural, urban and semi-urban areas.

(c) Rural teledensity increased from 0.41% to 1.2% during the Ninth Plan period. Rural teledensity has reached 1.49% as on 30-06-2003. In 2002-2003, BSNL has provided 22.55 lakh DELs in rural areas. BSNL has planned about 8.6 lakh rural DELs during 2003-04. In addition 5,16,182 villages have been provided VPTs.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Tackling of economic crimes by CBI

2543. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

DR.M.N. DAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBI has set up Economic Intelligence Wing to tackle the growing menace of economic crimes in India;

(b) whether this wing represents Senior Officials of the Reserve Bank of India, some CBI officers of the Dy. Inspector General rank in probing Economic Offences in the country;

(c) if so, what would be the main tasks, power and functions of this wing;

(d) to what extent it would help to check the economic offenders; and

(e) whether any report would be submitted to Government from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTRY OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE. DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND